やわらかい体温

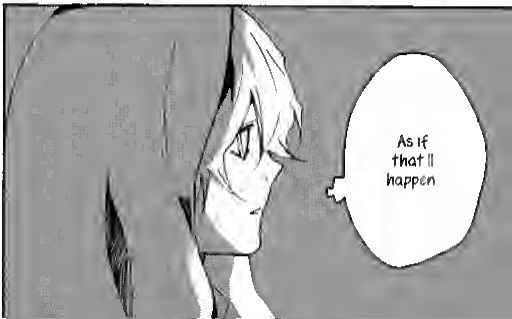
櫻井ナナコ

NANAKO SAKURAI

Gentle Body Heat

Even now, I still remember it clearly

A lonely room in the middle of the night
A seemingly pretentious line in a foreign drama that I unintentionally stumbled upon.


As if that'll happen

That's why...

I WOULD DIE FOR YOU.
For a moment I doubted my ears.

A line that can only exist in fiction spoken by a man I barely knew
to me.

HUH?
WAIT. WHO ARE YOU?
I'M SAITOU YUKIHITO, A THIRD YEAR STUDENT FROM THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT.
I'M RATHER FAMOUS ACTUALLY.
OH! THE RETURNEE STUDENT WHO ALWAYS TOPS THE EXAMS!?
BY THE WAY YOU'RE HOSHINO YUUDA, RIGHT?
YEAH... BUT WHY ARE SPEAKING TO ME ALL OF A SUDDEN?

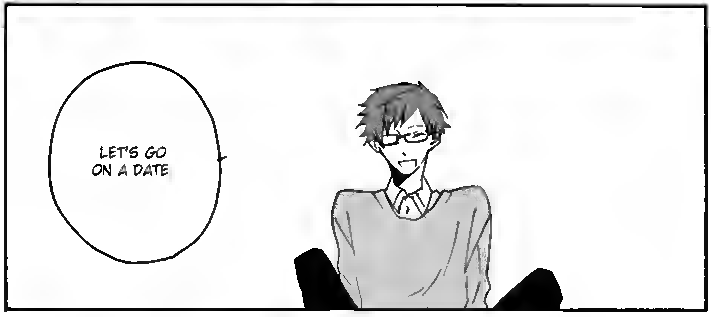
I CAME TO CONFESS MY LOVE
BUT, I'M A MAN...
WELL, THAT'S TRUE
YOU SEEMED TO BE THE TYPE THAT'S EASILY CONVINCED SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT WORK
PSSH
But if we become friends he might be useful to me...
Ahh
?
I GUESS IN THAT CASE,
turn
IT'S OKAY IF WE START FROM BEING FRIENDS
REALLY?! I'M SO GLAD!

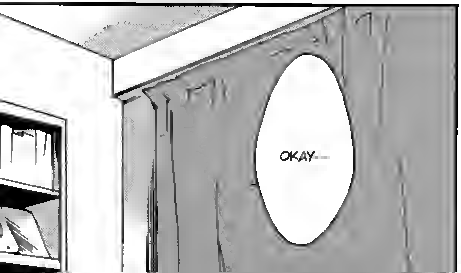
It's nice to meet you!
And with that I became friends with this senpai

But
WOAH!!
CLATTER

Ouch!
I WAS THINKING OF BRINGING OUR RELATIONSHIP UP A FEW STEPS
YOU WERE ROCKETING UP THE STEPS!
Clench
DO YOU REALLY NEED ME TO SPELL IT OUT?
WAI-
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?!

I'VE GROWN TO LIKE YOU EVEN MORE.
UNLIKE YOUR APPEARANCE, YOU'RE PRETTY STRICT ABOUT MANNERS.
CUPPED
TSK!!
ALRIGHT, ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW?
HUH?!


LET'S GO ON A DATE

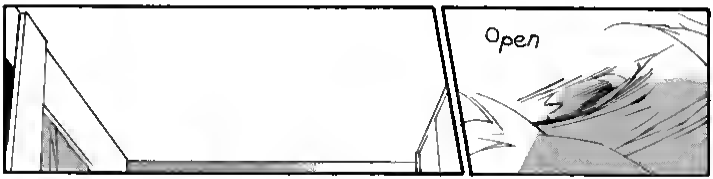

OKAY...

I DIDN'T TURN HIM DOWN...
I'M TOO WEAK...
I wonder where we'll be going for the date.
roll
...
Maybe it's my guilt for using him?
If he makes any weird movies on me again
what should I do?

RISES
.OH MAN,
GIVE ME A BREAK...
MORNING!
Good morning...
Thanks
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD...
NOTHING MUCH, JUST LACK OF SLEEP, THAT'S ALL..
And it's all your fault too
I SEE... THEN FOR NOW, LET'S GO FOR LUNCH
OKAY...

HM?
chew
Is this really just because I didn't sleep well?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
REALLY? YOU SURE?
YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOUR FOOD YET, YOU DON'T LIKE THE TASTE?
ERM...
No way...
COUGH COUGH
Now to think of it the guy beside me yesterday was coughing really badly

faint
I've caught a cold...
HOSHINO!!

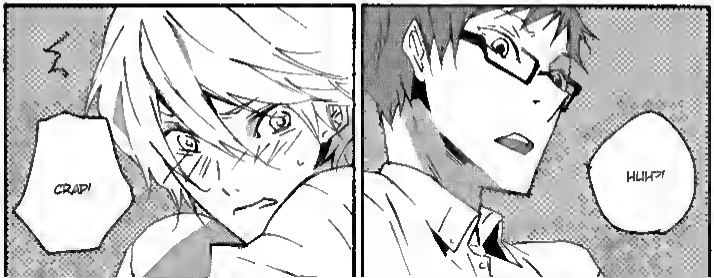

Open

YOU'RE AWAKE

WHERE-
YOU'RE IN MY ROOM.
What?
THAT'S GREAT...
S-SAITOU... SENPAI...?
I'M GOING HOME
...AND- HEY!
WITH YOUR BODY LIKE THAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
If I stay here something might happen...
THIS IS THE WORST SITUATION EVER!
YOU FAINTED SO SUDDENLY, I HAD A SHOCK...
YOUR TEMPERATURE WENT UP TO AS HIGH AS 39 DEGREES CELSIUS...

SEE, I TOLD YOU SO
Fall
WOAH!
...AH!

Push
I'LL GET RAPED!!


CRAP!
HUH?!

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T BE SO PUSHY ANYMORE.
'CAUSE WHAT YOU DID BEFORE...
blush
Hahaha! I'll never do such a thing to you!!
HA HA HA HA HA
PFT!

FOR NOW BEST TO JUST RELAX AND REST HERE
I'LL CALL YOUR HOME FOR YOU
REALLY?
OF COURSE!

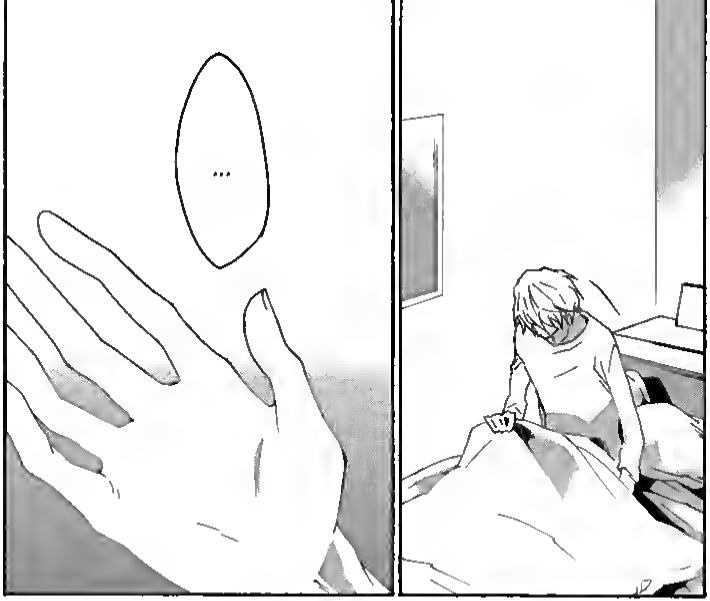
IT'LL BE BAD TO LET THEM WORRY UNNECESSARILY.

Clench
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL THEM,
SINCE NO ONE WILL BE AROUND ANYWAY...
BESIDES, I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF MYSELF EVER SINCE I WAS A KID.
SO, IT'S OKAY
GRAB
BUT, IT'S DIFFERENT NOW
IT'D BE RUDE IF YOU DON'T.
YOU SHOULD ACCEPT PEOPLE'S KINDNESS.
STILL...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
...

GREAT!
smile
..THANK YOU...
FORTUNATELY, IT'S SATURDAY TODAY
I CAN CONSTANTLY ATTEND TO YOU
YOU SHOULD REST WELL TONIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
shut
...
...GOOD NIGHT.

Sigh...
!!
appear
thump
thump
HNN
Crap
that gave me
a shock.

MY MEMORY'S ONLY CLEAR UP 'TIL 7 O'CLOCK... THEN, I WAS LURED TO SLEEP WHILE LOOKING AT YOUR SLEEPING FACE
SORRY
OH!
GOOD MORNING
wake up
GOOD MORNING...
WERE YOU HERE WITH ME ALL THIS TIME?
YEAH, BECAUSE YOU WERE HAVING FEVERISH DREAMS
YOUR CLOTHES ARE DAMP WITH SWEAT, RIGHT?
I'LL BRING YOU SOME CLOTHES TO CHANGE INTO
BUT YOU SEEM OKAY NOW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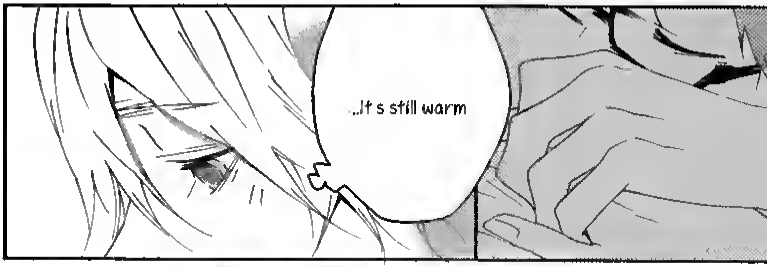

..It s still warm

THAT'S WHAT I SAID!

Math...er...
FOR THAT CASE, YAMADA-KUN IS... RIGHT, YES... ALRIGHT, I'M HEADING THERE NOW.
BECAUSE IT REALLY CAN'T BE USED...
BEING SO TROUBLE-SOME AT SUCH BUSY TIMES!
IF ONLY I'D NEVER GIVEN BIRTH...
Slam
...

OPEN
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M GOING HOME SINCE I CAN MOVE ALREADY
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME

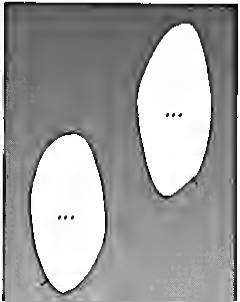
IF YOU HAVE A RELAPSE, IT'LL BE BACK TO SQUARE ONE...
I CAN'T DEPEND ON OTHERS!

I'VE ALWAYS DONE *EVERYTHING* MYSELF! NO MATTER HOW BAD IT GETS, I'M ALWAYS ALONE ..
SO, I'LL JUST KEEP ON TAKING CARE MYSELF, *ALONE*. IF NOT, SOMETHING MIGHT CHANGE SO MUCH THAT I WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE
I'LL TURN CRAZY ..
hug
SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT,
ALL THE MORE WHY I CAN'T LET YOU GO!

beep
36.5℃
YOUR TEMPERATURE'S BACK TO NORMAL. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND TOMORROW'S LECTURE.
OKAY.
WELL THEN, I'LL...
OH! WAIT!
IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING, IT'S OKAY IF WE BOTH SLEEP TOGETHER ON THE BED.
HUH?
BUT IF YOU DO ANYTHING WEIRD I'LL KICK YOU OUT IMMEDIATELY!

smile
THANKS!

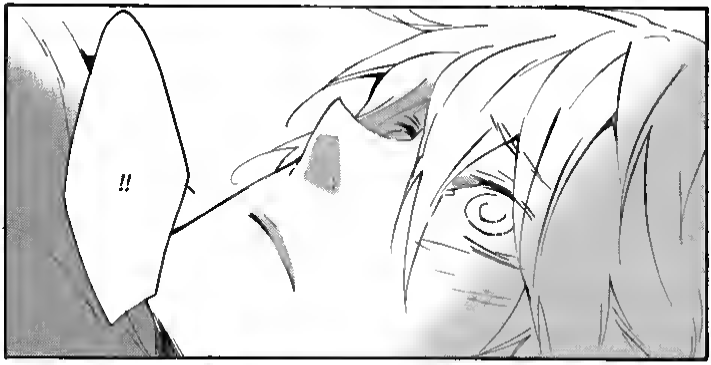
...YOU'RE LEAVING TOMORROW
IT'S GOING TO BE REALLY LONELY HERE


...
...

reach
I MIGHT MISINTERPRET YOUR ACTIONS, YOU KNOW?
IT'S FINE,
'CAUSE I LIKE YOUR HANDS, THEY'RE WARM.
ONLY MY HANDS?

grab
!!
hug
LET G-
..WHA-
pull

YOU SHOULD BE MORE DEPENDENT ON PEOPLE.

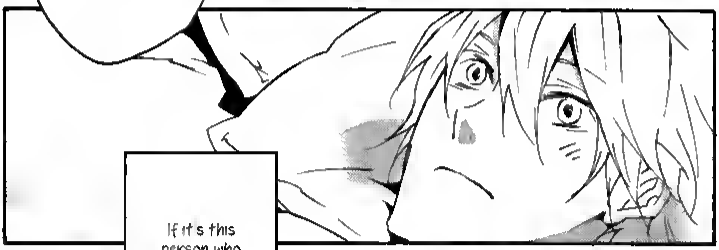

!!

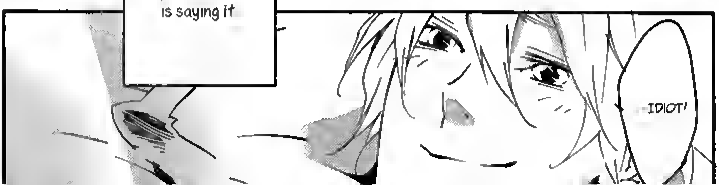
...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
I'LL TEACH YOU.
I WAS NEVER TAUGHT HOW TO DEPEND ON OTHERS...

I would die for you
In the end I still think that this will only occurs in fiction

HAHA. YOU'RE SAYING THIS NOW?
YOU MIGHT CATCH A COLD.

But...
IF THAT REALLY HAPPENS...
THIS TIME WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF ME?


If it's this person who is saying it


IDIOT!

Maybe I could believe just a little of it

END